

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 01087 270913Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /072 W
-----067124 271628Z /75
R 270901Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8142

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 01087

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MT, US
SUBJECT: FELICE VISIT

REFS: (A) STATE 102878, (B) STATE 103675

1. I HAD CASUAL ENCOUNTER WITH MINTOFF SATURDAY, 22 APRIL, WHO TOLD ME HE HAD HAD PRELIMINARY REPORT ON FELICE MEETING WITH NEWSOM, BUT EXPECTED TO HEAR MORE. HE EXPRESSED NO COMPLAINT AT WHAT HE HAD HEARD, EMPHASIZING THAT U.S. WAS URGING EUROPEANS TO GET ON WITH DIALOGUE. MINTOFF THOUGHT FELICE HAD STAYED ON IN WASHINGTON IN HOPES OF SEEING CHAIRMAN OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. FELICE IS BACK AND I WILL REPORT FURTHER WHEN I HAVE SEEN HIM.

2. MINTOFF'S LETTER IS CLASSIC MINTOFF PROSE, NOT WITHOUT USUAL ADMIXTURE OF FACTUAL AND NOT SO FACTUAL MATERIAL AND WITH TYPICAL VEILED WARNINGS OF CONSEQUENCES IF WEST DOES NOT GET MOVING WITH HIS CONCEPT. WHERE HE IS LESS THAN FACTUAL, IT IS NEVER COMPLETELY INACCURATE BUT RATHER PHRASED IN A WAY THAT PUTS IT IN TERMS OF THE WAY MINTOFF WANTED TO HEAR OR UNDERSTAND THE POINT. THE MOST OBVIOUS INSTANCE IN THIS LETTER IS THE REFERENCE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER. THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE REFERENCE TO HIS HAVING BEEN "ASKED TO QUANTIFY" THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 01087 270913Z

REQUIRED FOR THE FIRST "QUINQUENNium". THE STYLE IS MOST APPARENT IN THE CLAIM REPEATED IN THE LETTER AND BY FELICE THAT THE EUROPEANS SAY THEY CANNOT HELP UNLESS THE U.S. DOES. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, WHAT THE ITALIANS AND GERMANS HAVE SAID IS SIMPLY THAT THEY CAN MAKE NO COMMITMENTS TO HELP WITHOUT KNOWING MORE OF THE NEED AND WITHOUT CANVASSING THEIR ALLIES, INCLUDING THE U.S., AS TO WHAT

THEY MIGHT BE PREPARED TO DO.

3. THERE IS NO POINT, HOWEVER, IN TAKING ISSUE WITH MINTOFF ON THESE POINTS. HIS LETTER IS ABOUT WHAT ONE COULD EXPECT, INCLUDING SUCH INEPT PHRASEOLOGY AS EUROPE HAVING TO "FORK OUT" ITS SHARE AND THE NICELY PHRASED TACTICAL WARNING OF THE CONSEQUENCES, SHOULD EUROPE NOT DO SO, OF WHAT THE "NON-WEST" MIGHT DO. THIS WARNING DESERVES TO BE IGNORED IN OUR RESPONSE OR, BETTER, ACKNOWLEDGED WITH SOME APT DRAFTING OF OUR OWN THAT REMINDS MINTOFF THAT HIS OWN INTERESTS HAPPEN TO BE INVOLVED MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE'S.

4. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE RESPONSE BE REASONABLY PROMPT AND THAT IT BE GENERAL IN NATURE. DELAY IN RESPONDING COULD RAISE UNWARRANTED EXPECTATIONS. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S ORAL RESPONSE TO FELICE'S SEEMINGLY EVEN MORE DEMANDING TONE (IS IT NOW 17 MILLION POUNDS ANNUALLY INSTEAD OF 14 MILLION?) SET THE TONE WE THINK IS RIGHT. IN ANY EVENT, WE ASSUME MINTOFF IS REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH THE MESSAGE FELICE BROUGHT BACK; E.G. THAT WE "RESPECT AND UNDERSTAND" MALTA'S POLICY OF NEUTRALITY (THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE SAID AS MUCH AT THAT LEVEL) AND THAT WE WANT THE EUROPEANS TO GET ON WITH THE DIALOGUE. WE WILL HEAR MORE FROM MINTOFF LATER BUT WE HAVE BOUGHT SOME TIME AND HOPEFULLY SOME GREATER REALISM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VALLET 01087 270913Z

FROM HIM AS WELL AS TO WHAT HE CAN EXPECT FROM US.

5. I HAVE KEPT MY BRITISH AND ITALIAN COLLEAGUES INFORMED BUT NO OTHERS. LAINGEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978VALLET01087
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780180-0607
Format: TEL
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978047/aaaaafwo.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dbab61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 102878, 78 STATE 103675
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3007744
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FELICE VISIT
TAGS: PEPR, MT, US, (NEWSOM, DAVID D), (FELICE, MARIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dbab61b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014